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Overview

Governments from both developed and developing countries will gather together with business, civil society, thought leaders and influencers at the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council on 10 to 19 July at UN Headquarters in New York to drive transformative action on sustainable development.

The Forum takes place as development progress, for the first time in decades, is reversing, severely hampered by the combined impacts of the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising geopolitical tensions, a weak global economy, and a worsening climate crisis,.

These crises have placed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals — a historic global promise made by world leaders in 2015 to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy and thriving planet — in serious jeopardy.

In 2015, 589 million people were experiencing hunger, and by 2021, that number had risen to 768 million. As of 2022, nearly 1.1 billion people lived in slums or slum-like conditions in urban areas and billions of people still lack access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. The war in Ukraine and global economic uncertainty continue to cause significant volatility in energy prices. The manufacturing industry's recovery from COVID-19 remains incomplete and uneven: while some high-income regions achieved record-high manufacturing value added per capita in 2022, levels in the Least Developed Countries were not much higher than the 2015 baseline.



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With 2023 marking the midpoint of SDGs implementation, the need for global solidarity to get the Goals back on track has become more urgent than ever. The Forum will be a critical moment to accelerate action. as we head towards the game-changing SDG Summit in September.

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by countries at the Forum in July will provide the opportunity to mobilize support to overcome shared challenges, showcase successes, identify new and emerging issues and provide recommendations for implementing the Goals.

Thirty-eight countries and the European Union will present their VNRs on 14 to 19 July. Showcasing plans taken to achieve the SDGs, the presenters will specifically demonstrate the progress they have made and the obstacles they face in implementing the Goals. The 2023 presenters are: Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Comoros, Chile, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Fiji, France, Guyana, Iceland, Ireland, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Maldives, Mongolia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, St Kitts & Nevis, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia.

The Forum will review in depth SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation; SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy; SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure; SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities; and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals and their linkages to other Goals. The Forum will also draw attention to the importance of financing SDG implementation and the responses to crises, leveraging science,



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technology and innovation for a science-driven recovery, and driving transformation at the local level.

As the main multi-stakeholder platform for reviewing progress on the SDGs, the Forum will be a key contributor to preparations for the SDG Summit on 18 and 19 September at UN Headquarters in New York. The Forum will serve as a pre-Summit event to help identify substantive priorities, raise awareness and generate political momentum. The Summit will be an opportunity to turbo-charge collective efforts to make fundamental shifts, undertake transformative actions and deliver meaningful progress for people and planet by 2030.